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REMARKS

Claims 1-29 were pending in the application. Claims 2-14 and 29 have been amended, and Claims 1 and 15-28 have been withdrawn. Claim 29 was amended to incorporate language from withdrawn claim 1 and the specification at page 12, line 24 through page 13, line 4.

The Examiner classified the claims into 3 groups:

Group I, claims 9-11, 22-25, drawn to nucleic acid-based methods for determining potential of a diabetic patient to benefit from antioxidant therapy for treatment of vascular complications;

Group II, claims 13-14, 27-28, drawn to protein-based methods for determining potential of a diabetic patient to benefit from antioxidant therapy for treatment of vascular complications; and

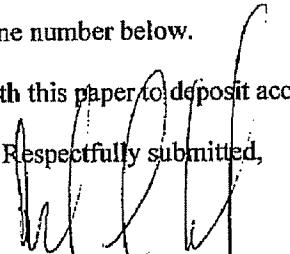
Group III, claim 29, drawn to a kit comprising reagents for determining haptoglobin phenotype.

Applicants elect to prosecute claims 29 of Group III drawn to a kit comprising reagents for determining haptoglobin phenotype. Claims in the other groups have either been rewritten to depend from claim 29 of the elected group, or withdrawn. Applicants reserve the right to pursue the withdrawn claims in future continuation application(s).

If the Examiner has any questions or comments as to this response, the undersigned may be contacted at the address and telephone number below.

Please charge any fees associated with this paper to deposit account No. 50-3355.

Respectfully submitted,



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